

## CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

**Title of publication:** 0000017\_Carved

**Other known title(s):** Not stated

**OFLC ref:** 2000307.016

**Medium:** Image File

**Maker:** Not stated

**Country of origin:** Not stated

**Language:** English, Japanese

**Applicant:** Commissioner of Police

**Classification:** Objectionable.

**Descriptive note:** None

**Display conditions:** None

**Date of entry in Register:** 26 November 2020

**Date of direction to issue a label:** No direction to issue a label has been issued

**Date of notice of decision:** 26 November 2020

### Summary of reasons for decision:

The image is hentai in manga style: a sexually explicit Japanese-style comic. The digital illustration explicitly depicts a man engaging a young girl in sexual activity. The illustrated format does not render it harmless. It deliberately sexualises young people for the purpose of adult entertainment and titillation. It has the effect of trivialising and eroding social taboos related to the sexual exploitation of young people. The perception that the publication are simply ‘innocent fun’ may amplify the potential harms by encouraging distribution to a wider audience. It is therefore classified as objectionable because it promotes and supports the exploitation of children or young persons for sexual purposes. The objectionable classification interferes with the right to freedom of expression set out in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. This is an outcome that is consistent with Parliament’s intention that publications falling under s3(2)(a) be banned. It reflects the concern of a free and democratic society to protect its young and vulnerable members from sexual exploitation.